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servation. Painful are the sensations which attend such a discovery ; unwilling to trust the seas again, we exclaim,

.....Miseri quibus
Intentata nites : me tabulâ sacer
Votivâ paries indicat uvida ;
Suspendissè potènti
Vestimenta maris Deo.

Such are the disappointments to which human nature is subjected, in the search of what was designed one of greatest its consolations. But we ought not therefore to be too much discouraged, or consider it impossible to form a sincere and lasting friendship. It is true, that friendship is a plant of the most delicate nature. In order to flourish, it requires the most assiduous culture. And this is as it ought to be. Nature does not impart her commonest benefits without some exertion, and shall we look for the richest boon of Heaven without the trouble of deserving it.

This subject may be concluded with the following extract from a favourite author.

L'attachement pent se passer de retour, jamais l'Amitié. Elle est un échange, un contrat comme les autres, mais elle est le plus sain de tous. Le mot d'*Ami* n' a point d' autre corrélatif que lui-même. Tout homme qui n'est pas l'ami de son ami est très-sûrement un fourbe car ce n'est qu'en rendant on feignant de rendre l'amitié, qu'on peut l'obtenir.

C. E.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

QUERE ?

I WAS walking early this morning in my garden, and on looking at a Strawberry bed, was struck with the beautiful appearance of the serrated leaves, every one of

which had on each of their *acute angles* a globule of water, while no other part of the leaf showed any moisture. and the whole leaf was thus surrounded, at regular distances, with the sparkling gems of the morning. One use then of this jagged shape of the leaves may be, to keep suspended the moisture for a longer time than would otherwise have happened ; but I wish to know, whether there be any natural cause of the globules of water being thus attracted and retained by the angular parts, or points of the leaves ?

A.

A NATURAL WEATHERGLASS.

When Robin sits on topmost spray,
He tells, it will be fair to-day ;
When lower down, he sits and sings,
He fears the rain will wet his wings.

A.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FOR several years past, the British and French governments have been mutually charging each other with violations of the Law of Nations. Hence, on the one hand, have arisen the Berlin and Milan decrees, and on the other, our Orders in Council ; each of them professing to be adopted in consequence of the violations committed by the other power. It is certainly no easy task to ascertain what the law of nations is. But in a late official publication from the French government on this subject, they appeal to the treaty of Utrecht. The contracting powers to that treaty were composed of the greatest part of the maritime powers of Europe ; and in this point of view, it may be well considered by them as an expression of maritime law, that was considered at that time as a fit and proper rule to govern their future intercourse on the

high seas. Our government, however, object to this treaty as a standard in maritime cases, and state that the French government have, in several instances, violated the provisions therein contained. Not having a copy of this treaty in my possession, but having no doubt that it is accessible to some of your correspondents, permit me to request your publishing it in your magazine. It will enable the public to judge how far our government are justifiable in rejecting the provisions of this treaty as a rule in their intercourse with the civilized nations of the world.

A CONSTANT READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE ADVENTURES OF AN ANTIQUE
OAKEN TABLE.

Hominem pagina nostra sapit.

MARTIAL.

HAVING accompanied a friend a few miles to Gracehill, a settlement of the Moravians, in the county Antrim, while we sauntered through its streets, (which more resembled the finely gravelled walks of a garden, than the streets of a country village,) we were led to observe that the seeming restrictions of the sisterhood were more than compensated by their agreeable intercourse with each other, producing in all a similarity of mind; an easy elegance and refinement of manners; and an emulation to excel in all the graces and attainments which constitute pure and unadulterated happiness. By a happy division of their time, in appropriating to devotion, to work, to amusement, and to sleep, a particular portion; so that the affairs of one should not intrude to perplex or embitter the other, and instead of spending their

leisure hours in idle frivolity, they choose rather to taste the sublimer pleasures of reason, to observe the frame, connexions, and symmetry of things, and give scope to the delicious and innocent wanderings of the imagination, with a secret pleasure, which none but those of the same regular habits are capable of enjoying: we were tempted to exclaim, "Happy people, who have exploded all the formidable gloom, and dullness from a Monastic life, and left it little else save the ceremony of the name,"

When we found ourselves somewhat fatigued by the heat, and stepped into the only solitary inn which the place afforded, for shelter and refreshment. After a slight repast, my friend asked my permission to transact a little business with some person in the neighbourhood, and left me alone till his return,

One might be induced to think, that a place like this is not the best calculated to enjoy the luxury of undisturbed contemplation but fancy, fickle goddess, is oft-times as capricious in the choice of situation, as she is in the objects of her inspirations. After pacing for a few minutes the clean swept mortar-floor; smiling at the rustic memorials of former guests, who had vainly attempted to interest others, in the predominant feelings of their minds, and covered the window shutters with amatory effusions, or the licentious flashes of Bacchanalian intemperance. I sat down, tired with the sameness of sentiment, which they all discovered, and casting my eyes over the homely furniture of the little parlour; an old fashioned oak table, whose polished posts, and glossy leaf, bespoke the notability of the thrifty landlady, particularly attracted my attention. If that table, thought I, was endued with the powers of memory and articulation, it might un-